

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 196010  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:BDF

APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER

S/S-O - TGMARTIN

-----081741 031920Z /47

O 031913Z AUG 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE 0505

SECRET STATE 196010

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PDIP, MOPS, MILI, LE, IS, UNSC

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: BEGIN'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S  
MESSAGE

1. ISRAELI MINISTER BAR-ON TODAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING  
MESSAGE FROM BEGIN TO THE SECRETARY DATED AUGUST 3 AND  
CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET, IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S  
AUGUST 1 MESSAGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF AUGUST 1.

IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS RECEIPT I CONVENED THE MINISTERIAL  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 196010

COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION.  
IT IS MY DUTY TO TELL YOU, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE MOST  
RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN LEBANON TOOK US COMPLETELY BY SUR-  
PRISE. AS WE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED, WE ARE NOT A PARTY TO  
IT BUT WE CAN AND WE SHALL DO OUR BEST TO EXERT OUR  
INFLUENCE IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR REQUEST.

I PRESUME THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS INFORMED YOU IN THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT (OUR TIME) OF THE DECISION WE HAVE TAKEN.

ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT IN OUR POWER TO ISSUE ORDERS TO THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, WE HAVE EMPHASITICALLY ASKED MAJOR HADDAD TO DISCONTINUE THE SHELLING OF THE LEBANESE BATTALION. IT IS OUR DESIRE THAT UNDER CONDITIONS OF COMPLETE QUIET AND PEACE THE TALKS MAY CONTINUE, LEADING, HOPEFULLY, TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION FOR AN AGREED ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL BE TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

AMBASSADOR LEWIS CHARACTERIZED THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT AS VERY REASONABLE. LET US THEREFORE HOPE THAT AGREEMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER WILL BE SPEEDILY REACHED SO THAT WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE OUR COMPLETE ATTENTION TO THE GREAT ISSUES OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I CANNOT END THIS MESSAGE, MR. SECRETARY, WITHOUT EXPRESSING WHAT I FEEL TO BE MY HUMAN MORAL DUTY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE TRAGIC SITUATION IN NORTHERN LEBANON AND PARTICULARLY IN BEIRUT ITSELF WHERE THE HOMES OF THE CHRISTIANS ARE BEING ATROCIOUSLY SHELLED BY SYRIAN GUNS AND TANKS, KILLING AND MAIMING EN-MASSE CIVILIAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 196010

INHABITANTS, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO GREETING YOU SOON.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES. SINCERELY, MENACHEM BEGIN. END TEXT.

3. FYI. BAR-ON NOTED THAT A SIMILAR MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT TO WALDHEIM, MAKING THE POINT OUTLINED IN THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF THE MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY, BEGINNING "ALTHOUGH IT IS..."  
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 aug 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE196010  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDRAPER:BDF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840140-2158  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197808101/aaaadgyp.tel  
**Line Count:** 106  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0fcd8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, EXDIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1544560  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH LEBANON: BEGIN'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE  
**TAGS:** PDIP, MOPS, MILI, PSDC, IS, US, LE, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)  
**To:** BEIRUT TEL AVIV MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0fcd8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014